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600. The average harem, based on a count of seven rookeries, was 26.76. The census was of date of August 10, and did not include the 33,881 seals taken during the present calendar year.

Reports have been received from the superintendent and physician, United States Indian Service, Neah Bay, Wash., that he has authenticated 386 fur-seal skins taken this season by Indians dwelling on the coast of Washington. The seals were all speared from canoes and were taken from 10 to 25 miles west of La Push, Wash. The records show that 379 of the skins were taken in April, May and June, 1918, and that 245 of the seals were males and 139 females. The superintendent also stated that a few skins remain untagged, and a report on the number will be made at the close of the season.

The lighthouse tender *Cedar*, which had on board some of the heavier portions of the equipment for the new by-products plant for St. Paul Island arrived at the island on August 11. The material was successfully landed, and ground for the foundation of the plant was broken on the 14th. The balance of the equipment for the plant was delivered by the *Roosevelt* in August. The active sealing operations were over by the 10th, thereby permitting the energies of the station to be devoted largely to the erection of the plant. It is hoped to push the work of constructing the buildings and installing the machinery rapidly to completion and to begin the manufacture of oil and fertilizer from seal carcasses this season. The carcasses of approximately 27,000 seals which have been killed on St. Paul Island this year will furnish ample material for preliminary operations.

#### RESEARCH GRANTS FROM TRUST FUNDS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

DURING the twelve months preceding the annual meeting of the academy the following grants for the promotion of research were made from the trust funds of the academy.

#### GRANTS FROM THE BACHE FUND

No. 205, T. H. Goodspeed, University of California, \$100. For studies of inheritance in *Nicotiana* hybrids.

No. 206, Reginald A. Daly, Harvard University, \$700. For the completion of the deep sea thermograph designed and partly constructed under Grant No. 194. In continuation of No. 194.

No. 207, T. H. Gronwall, New York City, \$300. To complete and extend mathematical researches on conformal representation.

No. 208, A. Franklin Shull, University of Michigan, \$400. To investigate the cause of sex production and the life cycle of rotifers, together with artificial modification of life cycle; differential factors in fertilization of male-producing and female-producing rotifers; sex determination and the life cycle of the thrips; cause of sex production, wing production and other cyclical phenomena in aphids.

No. 209, Cecil K. Drinker, Harvard Medical School, \$350. For the closer study of the factors involved in extension of unchecked red cells and leucocytes in the dog.

#### GRANTS FROM THE WATSON FUND

No. 16, Herbert C. Wilson, Goodsell Observatory, \$300. For a continuance of the work of the determination of the position and brightness of asteroids (chiefly those discovered by Watson by the photographic method, together with a study of the brightness of some variable stars. (Supplementary to Grant No. 15.)

No. 17, John A. Miller, Sproul Observatory, \$500. To measure plates for determining stellar parallaxes. (Supplementary to Grant No. 14.)

#### GRANTS FROM THE J. LAWRENCE SMITH FUND

No. 9, S. A. Mitchell, University of Virginia, \$300. To continue his researches on the paths, radiants and orbits of meteors. (Supplementary to Grant No. 8.)

#### GRANT FROM THE MARSH FUND

No. 2, M. Ferdinand Canu, Versailles, France, \$250. For investigation in cooperation with Dr. R. S. Bassler, of the United States National Museum, of the early tertiary bryozoa of North America.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PROFESSOR ERNEST FOX NICHOLS, of Yale University, has been given further leave of absence to continue his work in the Ordnance Department.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL DR. JOHN M. T. FINNEY, surgeon-in-chief of the American Expeditionary Forces, on his recent visit to the United States laid plans before the President